



Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Mental Health Block Grant

Promoting Wellness and Recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor
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First Episode Psychosis Awards

For Federal Fiscal Year 2014, Congress directed the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to require 5 percent of the Mental Health Block Grant to be set aside to support “evidence-based programs that address the needs of individuals with early serious mental illness.” Additional funding was provided to the block grant to award to support evidence-based programs (EBPs) for individuals with early serious mental illness, including First Episode Psychosis (FEP). Concurrently, SAMHSA shared the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) research on the most effective practices for persons experiencing FEP. NIMH’s information, *Evidence-Based Treatments for First Episode Psychosis: Components of Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC)*, was shared by SAMHSA as a possible approach for states’ consideration. The CSC programs are team-based, multidisciplinary approaches that are recovery-oriented and implemented at the time of the individual’s first psychotic episode.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services embraces this additional funding and guidance from SAMHSA and promotes the availability of these specialized services throughout Ohio. Through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, two agencies — Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services and Coleman Professional Services — have been selected as the recipients of these funds to enable expansion or implementation of FEP programming for persons ages 15-25 using a CSC approach.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services will develop FEP programs in Hamilton and Clermont counties as a new service. Both Hamilton and Clermont counties are recipients of a SAMHSA System of Care grant, and have prioritized services and supports for youth and young adults. The addition of FEP services will build upon the strengths that are already in place, and complement the existing services and supports.

Coleman Professional Services will expand from an existing project in Portage County to offer FEP programming in six additional counties. The additional counties to be served by Coleman will include Allen, Auglaize, Hardin and Stark counties. A new partner agency to Coleman, the Zepf Center, will develop FEP programs in Lucas and Wood counties. Essentially, the project will add these specialized services to counties in both northeast and northwest Ohio.

These agencies will collaborate with the BeST Center on the expansion or implementation of programming. The BeST Center has worked with five counties in northeast Ohio to establish early identification and treatment of psychotic illness programs, each of which is called FIRST. For more information on the FIRST projects and/or the BeST Center please reference the web page below.

National Institute of Mental Health Coordinated Specialty Care:

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/schizophrenia/raise/coordinated-specialty-care-for-first-episode-psychosis-resources.shtml>.

Northeast Ohio Medical University Best Practices in Schizophrenia Treatment Center First Episode Psychosis:

<http://www.neomed.edu/academics/bestcenter/bestpracticefirstepisodepsychosis>.